

## **2006 Match Recaps**

**May 4, 2006**

### **ANTEATERS FALL TO PENN STATE IN FIVE-GAME THRILLER**

University Park, Penn. -- After dropping the first two games, UCI battled back to win the next two only to watch Penn State take the match (32-30, 30-23, 31-33, 27-30, 15-13) in the fifth game in a semifinal of the NCAA Championships in Rec Hall.

UCI trailed 9-11 in game five, but rallied to tie the game 12-12 on a David Smith. Following a Penn State timeout, Smith put his serve into the net 12-13. Middle blocker Aaron Harrell recorded a kill to knot the score 13-13. PSU's Max Holt put away a kill to give the Nittany Lions the 14-13 advantage when the court lights went dark. The match was delayed 14 minutes before Holt stepped to the service line and fired a service ace to end the match.

Juniors Jayson Jablosny and Matt Webber led UCI with 20 kills each. Aaron Harrell tied his career-high with 14 kills followed by David Smith with 13 kills and a team-high six blocks. Setter Brian Thornton totaled 62 assists and a match-high 11 digs.

Penn State's Matt Proper led five Nittany Lions in double figure kills with 22. Alex Gutor recorded 15 kills, followed by Meerstein (13), Wentzel (12) and Holt (10).

UCI ends the season 27-5 overall. Penn State (21-8) advances to play UCLA in the championship match Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

**April 27, 2006**

### **LONG BEACH STATE KNOCKS OFF TOP-RANKED UCI IN MPSF SEMIFINALS**

IRVINE, Calif. --- Second-ranked Long Beach State swept top-ranked UC Irvine, 30-26, 30-20, 30-23, in a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championship Tournament semifinal before 2,434 at the Bren Events Center Thursday night, snapping the Anteaters' 21-match winning streak. The fourth-seeded 49ers, in winning their sixth consecutive match, will face UCLA in the MPSF Championship match Saturday night at 7:00 at the Bren Center.

LBSU outhit UCI .444 to .184 in the match, including .448 to .167 in the third game. Sophomore Norm Hutton led the 49ers with a match-high 22 kills as he hit .562 in the match. Senior Robert Tarr had 15 kills and eight digs. Duncan Budinger recorded a match-high nine block assists while Tyler Hildebrand had 46 assists and seven digs as LBSU improved to 23-9 overall for the season.

UCI (27-4) was led by junior Jayson Jablonsky with 12 kills while freshman libero Brent Asuka recorded nine digs. Brian Thornton had 32 assists as the Anteaters will wait to see if they receive the at-large bid to the NCAA Championships at Penn State next week.

In game one, the 49ers took the lead for good at 21-20 on a UCI service error. LBSU dominated the second game, hitting .531 to the Anteaters' .194. Hutton had eight kills in that game for the 49ers. In the third game, LBSU seized the lead at 17-16 and gradually pulled away to complete the sweep.

**April 15, 2006**

**NO. 1 UC IRVINE CLINCHES MPSF REGULAR SEASON TITLE WITH 3-0 WIN OVER UC SANTA BARBARA**

Irvine, Calif. -- No. 1 UC Irvine (27-3, 20-2) clinched its first Mountain Pacific Sports Federation regular season title with a 3-0 (30-25, 30-22, 30-25) victory over No. 8 UC Santa Barbara (13-15, 9-13) Saturday in front of 1,410 fans at the Bren Events Center.

The Anteaters' 20-2 MPSF record is good for first place and secures the top seed in the MPSF Tournament. UCI earns a bye in the first round and will host the semifinals and finals April 27 and 29 at the Bren Events Center. UCI is 27-3 overall and have 21 consecutive wins. UCI's previous conference best was fifth in 2003.

Juniors Matt Webber and Jayson Jablonsky led UCI with 14 kills each. Jablonsky added four blocks, while Webber recorded three. Middle blocker Aaron Harrell hit .500, recording 10 kills on 16 attempts and two errors. Harrell led all players with seven blocks assists. Senior Paul Spittle totaled seven kills, an ace and four digs in the win. Freshman libero Brent Asuka led all players with 12 digs, while setter Brian Thornton tallied 46 assists and five digs.

The Anteaters hit .430 to UCSB's .260 and out-blocked the Gauchos 11-5.

UCSB was led by David Kennedy and Theo Brunner with 12 kills apiece followed by Bryan Berman with 11 kills. Max Klineman had 43 assists and seven digs, while Ben Brockman topped the Gauchos with 10 digs.

With the score tied 10-10 in game one, a Brian Thornton ace started a 4-1 run to give the Anteaters a 14-11 lead. UCSB could get no closer than two the rest of the way as Jablonsky knocked down the game-winner for UCI 30-25.

UCI jumped out to a quick 5-1 lead in game two and went on to a 30-22 victory. Harrell had four kills and four blocks to lead UCI in the set. UCSB hit just .158 (15-9-38) for the game.

The Anteaters ended the match in high style, hitting .562 with 20 kills on 32 swings and just two errors. Webber had six kills as UCI won the game 30-25.

**April 12, 2006**

**UC IRVINE ROLLS TO 3-0 VICTORY OVER NO. 3 CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE**

Northridge, Calif. -- No. 1 ranked UC Irvine rolled to a 3-0 (30-27, 30-24, 30-24) victory over No. 3 Cal State Northridge, snapping the Matadors seven match winning streak.

The Anteaters won their 20th consecutive match and improve to 26-3 overall and 19-2 in the MPSF. It is only the fourth win all-time for UCI in Northridge. The Matadors, who lost for only the second time in 12 matches, goes to 18-9 on the year and 13-8 in league play.

Matt Webber led UCI with 12 kills, while senior Paul Spittle added 11 kills and hit .391. Outside hitter Jayson Jablonsky added 10 kills and seven digs. Middle blocker David Smith tallied eight kills and a match-high six total blocks. Ant eater libero Brent Asuka posted a match-high 10 digs and setter Brian Thornton added 38 assists, six digs and one ace in the win. The Anteaters out-blocked the Matadors, 11-7.

Brian Waite led the Matadors with 16 kills while hitting .636 (16-2-22). The Matadors' leading hitter Dan Rhodes was held to seven kills, hitting .000 on the night. Rhodes did record a team-high nine digs in the loss. Isaac Kneubuhl and James Lischer each added six kills while Waite and Lischer each had a team-high three blocks. Matador setter Travis Bluemling posted 40 assists, six digs and a solo block for Northridge which hit .215 (46-23-107) as a team.

UCI led 5-1 and 15-11 in game one before the Matadors went on a 10-6 spurt to tie the game at 21-21 on a kill by Kneubuhl. A Northridge service error followed by a Webebr service ace gave UCI the two-point cushion, a margin that the Matadors could not overcome. Paul Spittle pounded the game winner for UCI 30-27. The Anteaters recorded five of their 11 blocks in the first stanza.

Game two saw UCI jump out to a 15-9 lead and never looked back as the Matadors could not get within four points the remainder of the game taking the set 30-24.

UCI lead 20-16 in game three before Northridge crept back in 22-21 on a 5-2 run. The Matadors would get within one once more, but could never gain the lead as UC Irvine put the match away 30-24 on an Aaron Harrell kill.

UCI will close out the regular season hosting No. 8 UC Santa Barbara Saturday at 7:00 p.m. in the Bren Events Center.

## **April 8, 2006**

### **NO. 1 UC IRVINE SWEEPS STANFORD, 3-0**

Stanford, Calif. -- Topped-ranked UC Irvine swept Stanford, 3-0 (30-28, 30-18, 30-19) in a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match at Burnham Pavilion Saturday.

In a tight game one with the score tied 24-24, UCI scored four straight on two kills by David Smith, a service ace by Steffin Rangel and a Cardinal attack error to go up 28-24. Stanford would answer on a 4-1 spurt to narrow the score to 29-28, but a Cardinal service error gave UCI the game 30-28.

UCI rolled to a 30-18 victory in game two and a 30-19 win in game three.

The Anteaters improve to 25-3 on the year and 18-2 in MPSF action. The Anteaters rolled to their 19th consecutive win. Stanford falls to 4-22 overall and 2-18 in league play.

Jayson Jablonsky led UCI with 15 kills and four aces. Opposite Matt Webber followed with 14 kills and six digs. Middle blocker David Smith had seven kills, while outside hitter Steffin Rangel added five kills and a career-high eight digs. Setter Brian Thornton tallied 38 assists, five digs and three block assists.

The Anteaters topped Stanford at the net 10.0-7.5 and out-hit the Cardinal .330-.101.

Stanford was paced by Ben reddy with a match-high 18 kills. Brian Lindberg totaled a team-high seven digs.

## **April 7, 2006**

## **JABLONSKY, SMITH LEAD NO. 1 UC IRVINE PAST PACIFIC**

Stockton, Calif. -- Jayson Jablonsky and Matt Webber each had 18 kills to lead No. 1 UC Irvine to a 3-1 (28-30, 30-22, 30-28, 30-25) victory over No. 15 Pacific at the Spanos Center Friday.

The Anteaters improved to 24-3 overall and 17-2 in MPSF play. UCI extended its winning streak to 17 in a row.

Jablonsky hit .405 (18-3-37) and totaled nine digs and three service aces, while Webber collected eight digs and three total blocks. Middle blockers Aaron Harrell and David Smith each added 11 kills with Smith recording seven block assists. Libero Brent Asuka tallied 13 digs, while setter Brian Thornton had 57 assists, six digs and five blocks.

Pacific's Brian Adamson led all players with 32 kills. Pekka Seppanen added nine kills and eight digs.

Game one was closely contested as the lead was never more than three points. Trailing 28-27, Pacific scored the last three points to take the set 30-28. UCI hit .158 in the first stanza.

Game two was all UCI as the Anteaters opened a 16-9 lead with Jablonsky recording three kills in a 10-4 run. UCI would go on to a 30-22 victory.

The Tigers jumped out to an early 7-3 lead in game three and continued to lead 17-14. The Anteaters rallied on a 6-3 run to tie the score at 20-20. UCI opened the lead to 26-22, before Pacific battled back on two kills by Adamson and one by Gentry to narrow the UCI lead to one (26-25). Each team committed a service error before a Tiger attacking error gave UCI the 28-26 cushion. The teams sided-out before Webber put away the game winner 30-28.

The Anteaters controlled game four and stretched the advantage to 23-20 when Jablonsky stepped to the end line and fired three consecutive aces to give UCI a 26-20 lead. UCI would go on to take the game 30-25 after hitting .565 (15-2-23).

UCI will travel to Stanford Saturday (Apr. 8) for a 7:00 p.m. match.

**April 1, 2006**

## **NO. 1 UC IRVINE DOWNS NO. 6 LONG BEACH STATE; DAVID SMITH TIES UCI MATCH BLOCK ASSIST MARK**

Irvine, Calif. – After losing the first game, top-ranked UC Irvine won the next three to take a 3-1 (28-30, 30-21, 34-32, 30-26) victory over No. 6 Long Beach State at Crawford Court Saturday.

The Anteaters improve to 23-3 on the year and 16-2 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. UCI has won 18 consecutive matches, the current longest streak in Division I volleyball. Long Beach State goes to 17-9 on the year and 10-8 in league action.

UC Irvine recorded a season-high 21.5 blocks led by middle blocker David Smith career-best 13 block assists, which ties the UCI match record. Smith tied the record of 13 previously held by Brenden Watumull (2002), John Arata (1995) and Chris Harger (1996). The junior also added seven kills in the win.

Junior opposite Matt Webber led UCI with 19 kills and eight digs. Sophomore middle blocker Aaron Harrell hit .611 with 11 kills on 18 swings and no errors. It is Harrell's second consecutive match without a hitting error. Outside hitter Jayson Jablonsky had 14 kills and seven digs, while setter Brian Thornton tallied 48 set assists and six total blocks. Senior Paul Spittle had a career-high eight block assists and five kills in the win.

UCI out-hit the 49ers .414-.150, but Long Beach State was better from the service line, firing nine aces to the Anteaters' two.

Duncan Budinger led Long Beach State with 18 kills followed by Robert Tarr with his fourth double-double of the year on 16 kills and 10 digs. He also had a career-high five aces. Paul Lotman totaled 13 kills and four blocks, while setter Tyler Hildebrand notched 53 assists, six kills, six digs and two solo blocks on the night.

Game one remained close until Long Beach State used two kills by Robert Tarr and a UCI hitting error to pull away 25-20. The Anteaters would get within 29-28 on a Jayson Jablonsky kill, but Duncan Budinger put away the game winner for The Beach, 30-28.

UCI used a triple block by Paul Spittle, David Smith and Brian Thornton to take a 5-4 lead in game two and never trailed again as the Anteaters took the set 30-21.

With the score tied 17-17 in game three, Long Beach State went on a 7-1 run behind the serving of Tarr, who fired three service aces. The 49ers led 26-21 when UCI scored five unanswered which included two kills and an ace by Matt Webber to knot the score at 26-26. The teams traded points until a kill by Webber set up match point, which was followed by a Long Beach hitting error, giving UCI the game 34-32.

UCI used three Long Beach miscues to break a 21-21 tie and go up 24-21 in game four. Long Beach State could get no closer than two as Jablonsky hammered home the game and match winner 30-26.

The Anteaters pick up two points in the Black & Blue Rivalry Series with Long Beach State, but the Forty-Niners lead 23-19 overall.

### **March 30, 2006**

#### **NO. 1 UC IRVINE WINS 16TH STRAIGHT WITH SWEEP OF UC SAN DIEGO**

Irvine, Calif. – The No. 1 ranked UC Irvine men's volleyball team swept UC San Diego, 3-0 (30-23, 30-20, 30-21) at Crawford Court Thursday to extend their winning streak to a nation's Division I best 16 in a row.

The Anteaters (22-3, 15-2) hit .483 (54-12-87) for the match and were led by middle blocker Aaron Harrell who hit .818, the sixth best mark in the UCI match record books. Harrell had nine kills on 11 swings without committing an error. The sophomore also had four block assists. Junior Matt Webber totaled 13 kills and seven digs while middle blocker David Smith recorded 10 kills and hit .643 on the night. Senior Paul Spittle added nine kills while hitting .533. Setter Brian Thornton had 42 assists and six digs.

The Tritons (1-22, 0-17) were paced by Chris Sayers and John Mark Wendler with eight kills and three blocks each. Jon Daze had seven kills and four digs. Libero Joe Sexton led all players with nine digs.

UCI led 19-12 in game one when UCSD went on a 7-2 run to close within 21-19, but that is as close as they would come as UCI went on to a 30-23 victory.

Game two was tied 6-6 before UCI peeled off five straight points to take the 11-6 lead capped by an Aaron Harrell kill. The Anteaters would continue to roll until another kill by Harrell ended the game 30-20.

The Anteaters jumped out to a 4-1 lead in game three and went onto to take the set 30-21 and the match 3-0.

Top-ranked UCI will host No. 6 Long Beach State Saturday (Apr. 1) at 7:00 p.m. at Crawford Court.

**March 18, 2006**

### **NO. 1 UC IRVINE TOPPLES NO. 4 PEPPERDINE; SETS SCHOOL RECORD FOR WINS WITH 21**

Irvine, Calif. – No. 1 UC Irvine recorded its 21st win of the season defeating No. 4 Pepperdine 3-1 (28-30, 34-32, 30-28, 30-27) at the Bren Events Center Saturday, setting a school record for wins in a season.

A Bren crowd of 2,223 watched the Anteaters improve to 21-3 overall and better the previous school mark of 20 set in 2003. The team goes to 14-2 in Mountain Pacific Sports Federation play and wins its 15th consecutive match, which is longest streak in the nation. It is only the seventh win all-time (7-34) against Pepperdine and snaps an eight match losing streak against the Waves.

UCI junior opposite Matt Webber led all players with 24 kills and four total blocks. Outside hitter Jayson Jablonsky totaled 17 kills, three service aces and nine digs. Senior outside hitter Paul Spittle had 12 kills and nine digs, while middle blocker Aaron Harrell pounded 10 kills, hit .474 (10-1-19) and had five block assists. Setter Brian Thornton had a match-high 65 set assists, eight digs and five block assists. Middle blocker David Smith led UCI with seven total blocks and libero Brent Asuka topped the squad with 13 digs.

Pepperdine (13-5, 13-5) was paced by John Parfitt's 19 kills, 12 digs and four block assists. Paul Carroll recorded 17 kills, while Andy Hein hit .600 on 14 kills, two errors on 20 attempts. Hein also added seven block assists, Setter Jonathan Winder tallied 56 set assists, eight digs and three block assists. Libero J.D. Schleppenbach had a match-high 17 digs in the loss.

Game one was all Pepperdine as the Waves jumped out to a 10-5 lead and never looked back taking the set 30-25.

UCI trailed 19-13 in game two before rattling off six straight points to knot the score at 19-19. The teams traded points until the score was tied 32-32. UCI's Jayson Jablonsky put away consecutive kills to give the Anteaters the game, 34-32.

In game three, UCI led 24-21 when the Waves went on a 4-1 spurt to catch the Anteaters 25-25. A Pepperdine service error put UCI up 26-25 momentarily before a Pepperdine kill by Tanner Sutherland evened the score at 26-26. UCI took a two point advantage on kills by Jablonsky and Aaron Harrell (28-26). The Waves used a kill by Tom Hulse and a UCI attacking error to deadlock the game at 28-28. A UCI kill by Matt Webber was followed by a Paul Spittle kill on an overpass to give UCI the game 30-28.

In a closely contested game four, UCI used a Pepperdine attacking error followed by a Webber kill to give the Anteaters a 26-24 cushion. Following a Pepperdine kill, UCI rejected back to back Pepperdine attempts to go up 28-25. The teams traded service errors before John Parfitt had a kill for Pepperdine to delay match point. UCI's Paul Spittle ended the match with kill from the left side.

### **March 16, 2006**

#### **UCI TIES SCHOOL RECORD FOR WINS WITH 3-0 VICTORY OVER USC**

Irvine, Calif. – The No. 1 ranked UC Irvine men's volleyball team defeated USC (30-22, 30-26, 30-23) in a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match at Crawford Court Thursday.

With the win, UCI improves to 20-3 overall, tying the 2003 mark for most wins in a season. The team also goes to 13-3 in the MPSF, setting a new school mark for league wins in a season. It is the 14th consecutive win for the Anteaters, the nation's best streak. 12th-ranked USC falls to 10-13 on the year and 6-11 in conference action.

Matt Webber tallied 22 kills and six digs to lead the Anteaters. Jayson Jablonsky added 15 kills, hitting .500 (15-2-26) and had 10 digs in the win. Middle blockers David Smith and Aaron Harrell each recorded seven kills with Harrell hitting .545 (7-1-11) on the night. Senior Paul Spittle also recorded seven kills. Libero Brent Asuka had a match-high 16 digs, extending his double-digit dig streak to eight. Setter Brian Thornton recorded 52 assists, an ace and two blocks while guiding UCI to a .407 team hitting percentage.

Juan Figueroa led the Trojans with 18 kills followed by Joao Grangeiro with 11 kills. Jimmy Killian added 35 assists and seven digs in the loss. Libero Luke Morris led the team with 10 digs.

UCI led 18-16 in game one before a Jayson Jablonsky kill was followed by three consecutive Matt Webber kills to extend the lead to 22-16. The Anteaters would go on to take the set 30-22.

In game two, the score was tied 10-10 when UCI went on a 10-5 run to take a 20-15 lead. UCI pulled away 27-21 before the Trojans went on a 5-2 spurt to close within 29-26. USC's Jimmy Killian served into the net to end the game, 30-26 for the Anteaters.

After taking a 10-7 advantage on a Paul Spittle service ace, UCI never looked back taking game three 30-23 and the match 3-0.

Next, top-ranked UCI will take on No. 4 Pepperdine Saturday (Mar. 18) in the Bren Events Center at 7:00 p.m.

### **March 11, 2006**

#### **NO. 2 UC IRVINE UPENDS NO. 1 BYU IN FIVE GAMES FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT NIGHT**

Irvine, Calif. – The second-ranked UC Irvine men's volleyball upended No. 1 BYU 3-2 (31-29, 26-30, 26-30, 30-24, 15-10) for the second consecutive night.

In a near repeat of Friday's match, UCI won the first game then had to battle back after losing the next two games to win the final two. The win is UCI's 13th straight, the longest streak in the nation and takes the Anteaters to 19-3 overall and 12-2 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. BYU, who lost consecutive matches for the first time all season, goes to 14-4 on the

year and 12-4 in league play. A capacity 800 fans watched the match at Crawford Court Saturday.

UCI held a 26-21 advantage in game one before the Cougars went on a 7-1 run to take a 28-27 lead. Two BYU errors gave UCI back the lead, 29-28. Following an Ivan Perez kill for BYU, UCI's David Smith recorded a kill and a service ace to lift the Anteaters to a 31-29 victory. BYU libero Brian Rowley left the match with the Cougars trailing 9-4 after a teammate fell on him while diving for a ball. Taylor Evans stepped in and took over the libero duties for the Cougars for the rest of the match.

Game two was tied 16-16 when BYU peeled off three straight, including two Perez service aces to take a 19-16 lead. UCI would get no closer than two points the rest of the way as the Cougars won 30-26 and tied up the match 1-1.

UCI led 16-12 in game three only to watch BYU go on a 6-2 spurt to knot the score at 18-18. UCI went back up by two on kills by Jayson Jablonsky and Brian Thornton, 20-18. BYU returned the favor on kills by Perez and Cala Yosleyder, 20-20. The score was tied four more times until it was 25-25. BYU outscored UCI 5-1 to end the game 30-26. The BYU run was highlighted by back-to-back blocks.

UCI was up 12-10 in game four before UCI scored five of the next seven points to go up 17-12. The Anteaters never looked back taking the set 30-24 and forcing game five for the second consecutive night.

UCI didn't need to play catch up on Saturday, jumping out to a 6-3 advantage on a Matt Webber kill. The Anteaters extended the lead to 11-6 on another Webber kill before two Cougar attacking errors gave UCI a 13-6 cushion. BYU had a side out on a kill from Jonathan Charette, but middle blocker David Smith made it match point with a kill on the next play 14-7. BYU was not done fighting as the Cougars scored three consecutive points on an Irvine service error, a triple block and a kill by Yosleyder to narrow the score to 14-10. A service error by Rodrigo Gomes ended the game and the match. The Anteaters had four blocks in game five, including two solos by setter Brian Thornton. BYU hit -.067 (4-5-15) in the final stanza.

Matt Webber recorded 20 or more kills for the fourth consecutive match, leading UCI with 20 put-aways. Webber also added three service aces, five block assists and a match-high 25.5 points. Junior Jayson Jablonsky totaled 17 kills and five digs, while middle blocker Aaron Harrell tied his career-high with 14 kills and hit .650, committing only one error in 20 attempts. Setter Brian Thornton totaled 57 assists, six digs and four total blocks. Libero Brent Asuka tallied his seventh consecutive match with double-figure digs, posting 10. Middle blocker David Smith led all players with nine total blocks. Senior Paul Spittle had nine kills, five digs and three block assists.

Cala Yosleyder paced BYU for the second straight night with 18 kills, seven digs and seven block assists. Ivan Perez added 17 kills, while Jonathan Charette had 12 kills. Setter Rob Neilson recorded 57 assists, a team-high nine digs and six block assists. Russell Holmes and Victor Batista each had eight block assists in the loss.

Statistically, BYU bettered UCI in hitting percentage (.270-.254), aces (8-6) and blocks (18-15). UCI topped the Cougars in the dig column, 35-32.

The Anteaters continue their current homestand Thursday (Mar. 16) when they entertain USC at 7:00 p.m. at Crawford Court.

**March 10, 2006**

## **No. 2 UC IRVINE UPSETS NO.1 BYU IN FIVE-GAME THRILLER**

Irvine, Calif. – The second-ranked UC Irvine men's volleyball team upset No. 1 BYU in a five-game thriller (30-24, 28-30, 27-30, 36-34, 15-13) at the Bren Events Center in front of 2,817 fans Friday.

BYU led 10-6 in game five before UCI mounted a monumental comeback using three BYU errors to close within 10-9. Freshman Brent Asuka had a huge dig without any blockers up to keep the ball in play and force the Cougar attack error at 10-9. A UCI service error put the Cougars up 11-9. A kill by Matt Webber followed by two Jayson Jablonsky service aces put the Anteaters ahead 12-11. A Russell Holmes kill knotted the score at 12-12 before an Aaron Harrell kill in the middle and a hitting error by Victor Batista gave UCI a 14-12 advantage. A BYU kill by Cala Yosleyder narrowed UCI's lead to 14-13 before David Smith put away the match winner 15-13.

UCI was led by Matt Webber with 25 kills. Jayson Jablonsky recorded 17 kills, four service aces and seven digs, while senior Paul Spittle pounded a career-high 16 kills in the win. Spittle also had 10 digs. Setter Brian Thornton recorded 62 assists and a career-best 11 digs. Freshman libero Brent Asuka totaled 11 digs, recording double-digit digs in each of the last seven matches.

The Anteaters out-served the Cougars 10-2 and held a 47-44 dig advantage. BYU controlled the net, out-blocking UCI 19-10.

BYU was paced by Cala Yosleyder, who led all players with 32 kills, a personal best and the fifth highest total in the country this season. He also recorded a career and match-high 14 digs. Ivan Perez added 14 kills, Victor Baptista had 13 kills and a career-high 10 blocks assists, while Russell Holmes totaled 10 kills for the Cougars. Setter Rob Neilsen tallied a career-high 71 assists as well as eight digs.

UCI jumped out to a 15-9 lead in game one. The Cougars pulled within 23-20 on a Baptista kill, but the Anteaters would score eight straight to take the comfortable 28-20 lead and go on to a 30-24 victory in the first set.

After a 5-5 tie, BYU controlled game two with UCI closing the score to 29-28 on two Cougar miscues and a Webber kill. Yosleyder ended the game with a kill to even the games at one apiece.

Kills by Jablonsky and Webber combined with a BYU ball handling error tied game three at 24-24. The teams traded points until a pair of kills by Yosleyder gave BYU the 27-25 lead. The teams again traded points until a Yosleyder kill gave the Cougars game point 29-27. Jonathan Charette ended the game with a kill, 30-27 BYU.

Niether team held more than a two point lead in game four until UCI held a 25-22 lead capped by a Spittle kill. BYU would use a Yosleyder kill and an Anteater hitting error to get within 25-24. Following a Webber kill for UCI, Yosleyder had a kill and a service ace to tie the score at 26-26. The teams would trade points before BYU took a 32-31 lead on another Yosleyder kill. Webber and Batista each had a kill for their respective schools before a Yosleyder service error followed by a Charette attacking error gave UCI the 34-33 advantage. Perez would sideout for BYU before Jablonsky drilled a kill to give UCI their sixth game point 35-34. Yosleyder sailed an attack wide giving the Anteaters a 36-34 victory to force game five.

The Anteaters win their 12th in a row and improve to 18-3 overall and 11-2 in Mounatin Pacific Sports Federation play, while BYU goes to 14-3 on the year and 12-3 in league action. The win is the first ever for the Anteaters in the Bren Center (1-8).

The teams will meet again tomorrow for a 6:00 p.m. match in Crawford Court.

### **March 7, 2006**

#### **UC IRVINE WINS SCHOOL RECORD 11TH STRAIGHT WITH VICTORY OVER PENN STATE**

Irvine, Calif. – No. 2 UC Irvine defeated No. 8 Penn State 3-0 (30-21, 30-27, 30-25) in a non-conference match at Crawford Court Tuesday to extend their winning streak to 11, a new school record.

The Anteaters snapped the Nittany Lions' 10-match winning streak and take over the longest current streak in the nation. UCI's 11 straight victories better the previous record of 10 set in 2003. UCI improves to 17-3 on the year, while Penn State goes to 11-5 overall.

Opposite Matt Webber recorded 23 kills for the second consecutive night to lead the Anteaters. Outside hitter Jayson Jablonsky totaled 16 kills, while middle blocker David Smith had 10 kills and hit .769 on 13 errorless swings. Setter Brian Thornton tallied 54 assists and guided UCI to a blistering .511 hitting percentage.

Penn state was paced by Matt Proper's 13 kills, three digs and three block assists. Nate Meerstein hit .571, totaling eight kills. Dan O'Dell recorded 31 assists.

The Nittany Lions out-blocked UCI 10-5, but UCI out-dug PSU 28-10.

After UCI took game one 30-21, Penn State held an 18-15 lead in game two before UCI went on a 5-2 run that was capped by two Webber kills to knot the score at 20-20. The teams traded points until the score was tied at 23-23. Kills by Webber and Jablonsky combined with three Nittany Lion attacking errors gave UCI a 28-23 cushion. PSU brought the score to 28-26 on a UCI service error and back-to-back stuffs. Jablonsky had a kill followed by a service error to extend the game to 29-27 before Webber pounded the game winner 30-27.

Game three remained close until UCI broke open a 15-14 lead with two Jablonsky kills and two Nittany Lion miscues to go up 19-15. Penn State could get no closer than two the rest of the way as UCI recorded it's fourth consecutive sweep.

Friday's match between No. 1 BYU and No. 2 UC Irvine begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Bren Events Center.

### **March 6, 2006**

#### **WEBBER LEADS UC IRVINE PAST LOYOLA-CHICAGO; TEAM WINS 10TH STRAIGHT TO TIE LONGEST WINNING STREAK**

Irvine, Calif. -- Matt Webber recorded 23 kills to lead second-ranked UC Irvine to a 3-0 (30-21, 30-26, 30-28) victory over No. 10 Loyola-Chicago in a non-conference match Monday at Crawford Court.

With the win, UCI extends its winning streak to 10, which ties the school record set in 2003. The Anteaters improve to 16-3 overall, while the Ramblers lose just their second match of the year to go to 15-2.

Webber hit .636, totaling 23 kills on 33 attempts and committing only two errors on the night. Middle blocker Aaron Harrell recorded the second-best hitting percentage in a UCI match with a

.917 mark in an almost perfect night (11-0-12). Middle blocker David Smith hit .733 (12-1-15), which is 12th best in the UCI match record books. Setter Brian Thornton had 50 assists and guided the Anteaters to a .431 hitting performance.

Loyola-Chicago was led by Chris Kozlarek with nine kills followed by Nathan Gustus and Corey Kloos with eight kills apiece.

UCI opened game one on a 17-8 run and never looked back going on to a 30-21 victory.

The Ramblers jumped out to an early 4-1 lead in game two, but UCI rallied to tie the score at 5-5. UCI built a 20-14 lead before Loyola went on a 6-1 spurt to close with 21-20 on a kill by Kozlarek. David Smith put away a kill for UCI to maintain a two point cushion and the Ramblers could get no closer the rest of the way.

In a close game three, the Anteaters held a 20-18 advantage before Webber pounded three kills and the Ramblers had two attacking errors to help UCI extend the lead to 25-19. Loyola then went on a 9-4 run to narrow the Anteater lead to 29-28, but Aaron Harrell ended the match with a kill in middle.

UCI will meet No. 8 Penn State, who also has a 10-match winning streak on the line tomorrow (Mar. 7) at 7:00 p.m. at Crawford Court.

**March 3, 2006**

### **UCI EXTENDS WINNING STREAK TO NINE WITH SWEEP OF UCLA**

Los Angeles, Calif. -- Second-ranked UC Irvine (15-3, 10-2) defeated UCLA, 3-0 (31-29, 30-27, 30-25) at Pauley Pavilion Friday to extend their winning streak to nine matches.

The nine wins is one shy of the 2003 record of 10. The victory marked UC Irvine's first series sweep of UCLA in 54 matches. UCI's 15 wins is the second most in program history, behind the 2003 mark of 20.

Junior opposite Matt Webber led UCI with 17 kills, while outside hitter Jayson Jablonsky added 13 kills and middle blocker totaled 12 kills and hit .611 (12-1-18). All three players recorded five block assists. Middle blocker David Smith led the team with seven block assists, while freshman libero Brent Asuka had a match-high 17 digs. Setter Brian Thornton tallied 53 assists and nine digs in the win.

Steve Klosterman was the only Bruin in double-figure kills with 18. UCLA hit just .168 for the match and were out-blocked by the Anteaters 13.5 to 9.0.

In Game 1, the Bruins led 29-27 before the Anteaters reeled off four straight points to win the game. In Game 2, UCI led 23-22 before two kills by Paul Spittle and two Bruin attack errors helped the Anteaters to a 27-23 cushion.

UCI will begin a four-match home stand Monday hosting Loyola-Chicago followed by Penn State Tuesday. Both matches begin at 7:00 p.m. at Crawford Court. No. 1 BYU will be in town Friday for a 7:00 p.m. match at the Bren Events Center then return for a 6:00 p.m. match Saturday at Crawford.

**February 25, 2006**

## **SECOND-RANKED UC IRVINE SWEEPS UC SAN DIEGO**

San Diego, Calif. – The second-ranked UC Irvine men's volleyball team swept UC San Diego, 3-0 (30-20, 30-27, 30-22) in a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match Saturday at the RIMAC Arena.

The Anteaters extend their winning streak to eight and improve to 14-2 overall and 9-2 in MPSF play. UCI's 14 wins is second most in school history, tying the mark set in 1999 and 2004. The school record is 20 set in 2003. UC San Diego goes to 1-14 overall and 0-11 in league play.

With the win, UCI takes a 14-11 lead in the Black & Blue Rivalry Series.

UC Irvine was led by junior Jayson Jablonsky with 14 kills and a .500 hitting percentage (14-2-24). Opposite Matt Webber recorded 10 kills and 10 digs, while libero Brent Asuka tallied a match-high 16 digs. Middle blocker David Smith led all players with four blocks and added eight kills in the win.

Jon Daze was the only Triton in double-figure kills with 10. Chris Sayers recorded nine kills, while Eric Leserman had 11 digs.

After UCI won game one 30-20, game two was closely contested with the score tied at 25-25. UCI's David Smith had a kill followed by a UCSD attacking error to open a 27-25 Anteater advantage. Garrat Smith recorded a kill for the Tritons before two San Diego mistakes gave UCI game point 29-26. A UCI service error proceeded a kill by Aaron Harrell to end the game 30-27.

Sophomore Brett Kohout ended the match with a kill giving UCI the game 30-22 and the match 3-0.

UC Irvine will travel to UCLA next Friday (Mar. 3) for a 7:00 p.m. match at Pauley Pavilion.

## **February 24, 2006**

### **FOUR ANTEATERS RECORD DOUBLE-DIGIT KILLS TO LEAD UCI PAST LONG BEACH STATE, 3-1**

Long Beach, Calif. -- UC Irvine had four players with double-figure kills to lead the second ranked Anteaters to a 3-1 (26-30, 30-27, 32-30, 30-26) victory over No. 6 Long Beach State at The Walter Pyramid Friday.

UC Irvine improves to 13-3 overall and 8-2 in the MPSF, extending their winning streak to seven. Long Beach State goes to 11-5 on the year and 6-4 in league action.

After splitting the first two games, UCI had a 18-12 lead in game three. The Forty-Niners went on an 11-5 run to knot the score at 23-23. The teams traded points until a kill by LBSU's Paul Lotman combined with an Anteater attacking error gave the Forty-niners a 27-25 lead. The teams traded points before Duncan Budinger had a service error on match point to open the door for UCI trailing 29-28. An attack error by Robert Tarr tied the game at 29-29, but Tarr redeemed himself with a kill on the next play to give LBSU a 30-29 advantage. Another Long Beach service error tied the game at 30-30 before Matt Webber fired a service ace followed by a Tarr attacking error to give UCI the 32-30 victory.

Long Beach State jumped out to a quick 8-4 lead in game four but UCI rallied to take a 17-16 lead on two Aaron Harrell kills followed by a Jayson Jablonsky solo block on Tarr. The Anteaters pulled away at 25-22 with the help of a block and a Forty-Niner error. UCI went on to win the game 30-26 and the match 3-1.

Jayson Jablonsky led UCI with 19 kills followed by Matt Webber with 16. Middle blocker David Smith recorded a season-high 14 kills and hit .700 (14-0-20) for the match. Smith also added a match-high five block assists. Paul Spittle added 11 kills in the win, while Brian Thornton tallied 64 assists. Freshman libero Brent Asuka totaled 12 digs.

UCI will travel to UC San Diego Saturday (Feb. 25) for a 7:00 p.m. match.

## **February 18, 2006**

### **THIRD-RANKED UC IRVINE SWEEPS NO. 15 PACIFIC**

**IRVINE, Calif.** – Junior Jayson Jablonsky and Matt Webber each recorded 12 kills to lead No. 3 UC Irvine past No. 15 Pacific, 30-23, 30-26, 30-22, in a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match at Crawford Court Saturday night.

Sophomore Aaron Harrell and senior Paul Spittle each added seven kills in the match as the Anteaters improved to 12-3 overall and 7-2 in MPSF action. Junior middle blocker David Smith had a game high seven block assists while junior setter Brian Thornton recorded 40 assists and five digs for UCI, which won its sixth consecutive match. Harrell hit .462 for the match to lead the 'Eaters, freshman libero Brent Asuka had a match high 12 digs and Paul Spittle notched three block assists.

Pekka Seppanen led Pacific (4-10, 2-8) with a match high 18 kills and Jeff Hendershot and Joe Forbes each had three block assists for the Tigers.

UCI travels to Long Beach Friday, Feb. 24th to take on Long Beach State at 7:30 p.m. at the Walter Pyramid.

## **February 17, 2006**

### **THIRD-RANKED UC IRVINE SWEEPS STANFORD 3-0 IN MPSF ACTION**

**IRVINE, Calif.** --- Junior outside hitter Jayson Jablonsky recorded 17 kills and sophomore Aaron Harrell added 12 to lead No. 3 UC Irvine past Stanford, 30-17, 30-17, 30-24, in a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match at Crawford Court Friday night.

Jablonsky, the reigning AVCA National and MPSF Player of the Week, had a .517 hitting percentage and added four service aces as the Anteaters improved to 11-3 overall and 6-2 in the MPSF. Junior middle blocker David Smith had a match-high six block assists while junior setter Brian Thornton recorded 42 assists and seven digs for UCI, which won its fifth consecutive match. Harrell hit .688 for the match, freshman libero Brent Asuka also had seven digs and senior outside hitter Paul Spittle notched four block assists.

Ben Reddy led Stanford (3-11, 2-8) with 14 kills and Matt Ceran had four block assists.

UCI hosts 15th-ranked Pacific in a MPSF match Saturday night at 7:00 at Crawford Court.

**February 11, 2006**

### **JABLONSKY LEADS UCI TO WIN OVER UC SANTA BARBARA**

Santa Barbara, Calif. -- Junior Jayson Jablonsky led No. 3 UC Irvine to a 3-1 (33-35, 30-23, 29-31, 37-39) victory over No. 10 UC Santa Barbara in Robertson Gym Saturday.

The Anteaters climbed to 10-3 overall and 5-2 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, while the Gauchos fell to 6-8 overall and 4-6 in league play.

Jablonsky led the Anteater charge, finishing with a game-high 25 kills, two service aces and five block assists. The 25 kills ties his career-high. Aaron Harrell recorded 13 kills and a match-high nine block assists, while David Smith added 11 kills and six blocks in the win. Freshman libero Brent Asuka totaled 12 digs and setter Brian Thornton had 64 assists.

Bryan Berman led the Gauchos with 21 kills, Otte recorded 18 and Brunner spiked 15. UCSB All-American Evan Patak tried to give it a go but would be unable to finish the contest.

Irvine jumped out to a 1-0 lead after the first game that saw UCSB erase a six-point deficit at 13-19. The Gauchos tied the game at 26-26, and the two teams would battle to a tie six more times before the Anteaters were able to put the game away. Tied at 33, a costly service error by Theo Brunner put UCI in the driver's seat, and a block by Paul Spittle and David Smith would seal the game, 35-33.

The Gauchos stormed back in the second game, jumping out to a 24-16 lead. Irvine scored three consecutive points to cut the lead to five, but two kills from Berman, one from Jared Godinez and one from Otte would catapult UCSB to a game two victory.

Game three came down to a 29-29 tie when Jablonsky spiked a Brian Thorton set into the ground after Santa Barbara had led for the majority of the game. Another kill by Jablonsky gave the Anteaters a 30-29 lead, and it looked as if Theo Brunner was going to tie the game at 30, but Irvine's David Smith saved the ball and game with a diving dig to his left to keep the ball alive, and once Irvine settled the ball, Jablonsky recorded his third consecutive kill to give Irvine a 2-1 game lead.

It seemed as if game four would never end as each team refused to budge for 75 points. Again, Santa Barbara maintained a lead for much of the game until a kill by Aaron Harrell gave the Anteaters a 30-29 lead. Otte, Berman and Brunner racked up multiple kills from there, but Irvine would always have an answer. At 37-37, the Anteaters were able to convert two consecutive kills from Matt Webber and Thorton.

As a team, the Gauchos hit .318 to the Anteaters' .333 clip. UCI's 18 blocks trumped UCSB's count of seven and would prove to be the difference in the match.

**February 8, 2006**

## **UC IRVINE BLANKS CAL STATE NORTHRIDGE, 3-0**

Irvine, Calif. – The third-ranked UC Irvine men's volleyball team blanked No. 5 Cal State Northridge, 3-0 (30-21, 30-23, 30-26) in a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match Wednesday at Crawford Court.

Matt Webber led the Anteaters with 17 kills followed by Jayson Jablonsky with 12. Middle blocker David Smith hit .857 on six kills, no errors and seven attempts. Freshman libero Brent Asuka added nine digs, while setter Brian Thornton tallied 40 assists, seven digs and five total blocks.

The Anteaters dominated the net, out-blocking the Matadors, 13-4.5. UCI hit .409 for the match, holding Cal State Northridge to a .194 mark.

In a match that featured the MPSF's two best serving teams, UCI held a 5-3 advantage in service aces.

Cal State Northridge was paced by Eric Vance with 13 kills, the only Matador in double-digits. Brian Waite added eight kills and three total blocks. Isaac Kneubuhl had a team-high eight digs.

UCI jumped out to a 17-9 lead in game one on a David Smith ace. The Matadors could get no closer than six the rest of the game.

In game two, the Anteaters led 14-9 when Northridge went on a 6-3 spurt to close within 17-15 on a Brian Waite kill. UCI returned with an 8-5 run of their own culminated by an Aaron Harrell solo block from a foot off the net to take the 25-20 lead. UCI would go on to the 30-23 victory.

Game three was tight from the beginning and continued until the score was knotted at 20-20. A Paul Spittle kill combined with two Matador errors gave UCI the 23-20 cushion. UCI would hold the two point advantage at 27-25 before a kill by Jablonsky followed by a Matador attack error gave the Anteaters match point. UCI committed a service error before David Smith ended the match with a kill.

UCI improves to 9-3 on the year and 4-2 in conference play. The nine wins matches last year's season total (9-20). Cal State Northridge goes to 6-4 overall and 2-3 in league action.

**February 2, 2006**

## **UC IRVINE SWEEPS UC SANTA CRUZ**

IRVINE, Calif. --- Outside hitter Matt Webber led all players with 15 kills to lead UC Irvine to a 30-22, 30-28, 30-18 sweep over UC Santa Cruz Thursday at Crawford Court. UCI improved to 8-3 with the non-conference win while UC Santa Cruz dropped to 5-2.

UCI's Jayson Jablonsky added 12 kills on 21 attempts to come away with a .429 hitting percentage. Sophomore middle blocker Aaron Harrel put in six kills and led all players with seven block assists. Freshman libero Brent Asuka recorded match-high 12 digs while setter Brian Thornton handed out 45 assists.

The Banana Slugs were led Tyler Madden's 13 kills and received 11 kills from outside hitter Bryan Shires. Eric Reid totaled 11 digs and setter Matthew Reynolds recorded 33 assists.

UCI hit .477 as a team while holding UCSC to a .135 percentage. The Anteaters out-blocked the Banana Slugs 13-6.5 and held the dig advantage 25-19.

UC Irvine continues Mountain Pacific Sports Federation action next Wednesday (Feb. 8) against Cal State Northridge at Crawford Court.

**January 31, 2006**

### **WEBBER'S CAREER-HIGH 26 KILLS LEADS UC IRVINE OVER PRINCETON**

Irvine, Calif. -- UC Irvine junior Matt Webber pounded a career-high 26 kills to lead UC Irvine to a 3-1 (30-22, 30-23, 36-38, 30-18) victory over Princeton in a non-conference match at Crawford Court Tuesday.

Webber hit .500 (26-6-40) on his way to his fifth 20-plus kill night of the year. Middle blocker Aaron Harrell recorded nine kills and had a match-high eight blocks. Freshman libero Brent Asuka tallied 14 digs, his fourth consecutive double-digit dig performance.

Princeton was led by Jack Pichard with 14 kills. Peter Eichler, Michael Vincent and Brian Hamming each pitched in nine kills each. Libero Mark Stevens led the team with 12 digs.

For the match, UCI out-blocked the Tigers 14-5-7.

**January 27, 2006**

### **WARRIORS SWEEP ANTEATERS**

Honolulu, Hawaii -- The seventh-ranked University of Hawai'i men's volleyball team got 17 kills from Jose Delgado en route to a three-set sweep (30-21, 30-22, 34-32) of No. 4 UC Irvine at the Stan Sheriff Center in front of 3,556 fans.

Hawai'i improved to 4-3 overall and 3-2 in league play while UC Irvine goes to 6-3 and 3-2.

The Warriors set the tempo early in Game 1. UH jumped out to a 5-1 lead and increased it to 17-10 and led by as many as nine twice. Delgado slammed eight kills in set as the Warriors out-hit UCI, .333 to .167.

It was much the same story in Game 2. After the set was tied at four, UH reeled off four straight points and never looked back. UH hit .500 with 16 kills and only one error in 30 swings.

The Anteaters came out more determined in Game 3 leading 6-3 and increased it to 15-11 at the halfway point. UCI came out of a time out and took its biggest lead of the match, 19-14, before UH rallied. Two kills by Lauri Hakala, one by Brian Beckwith, an ace, and a UCI attack error tied it at 19. The lead seesawed until until UCI served for the match, 32-31. The Warriors would get kills from Dio Dante and Beckwith, closing the match on a UCI hitting error.

Jayson Jablonsky was the only Ant eater in double-figure kills leading UCI with 17 kills. Matt Webber added nine kills, while Aaron Harrell recorded six kills hitting .545 on the night.

UH got a solid hitting night from Hakala who picked up 12 kills. Maulia La Barre, who made his first start of the season, added six and hit .545.

**January 25, 2006**

## **UC IRVINE SWEEPS HAWAII**

HONOLULU - UC Irvine's Jayson Jablonsky posted 16 kills and Matt Weber added 15 leading the No. 4 Anteaters to a straight-set win in Hawai'i's home opener of Mountain Pacific Sports Federation action tonight in front of 3,258 at the Stan Sheriff Center. The win was just the fourth all-time for the Anteaters against Hawaii and the second in Honolulu.

The No. 7 ranked Warriors (3-3, 1-2 MPSF) struggled throughout the match passing the tough UCI serves. UCI aced UH five times and Warrior setter Brian Beckwith was constantly chasing down errant passes to start the offense.

Hawai'i took a 6-5 lead in Game 1; however, a kill by UCI's Aaron Harrell tied it at six, which proved to be the last lead of the match for UH.

In Game 2, UCI jumped out to leads of 10-6 and 18-10. Game 3 was much the same as the Anteaters led 9-6 and 15-11 early. But Hawai'i came storming back to tie it at 20 before UCI called a timeout and regrouped to pull ahead 26-22 and kept the four-point margin to close out the match.

UCI outhit (.373 to .288) and outblocked (8.0 to 4.5) UH as the Anteaters won decisively in three 30-26, 30-23, 30-26.

UH's Matt Carere was the only bright spot offensively as he had a team-high 12 kills while hitting a respectable .435.

The two teams complete the two-game MPSF series on Friday night, Jan. 27, at 7:05 p.m.

**January 20, 2006**

## **PEPPERDINE HANDS UCI FIRST MPSF LOSS**

MALIBU, Calif. - The third-ranked Pepperdine men's volleyball team dropped game one of its Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) match against No. 4 UC Irvine Friday night, but would rally to win the next three (26-30, 31-29, 30-27, 30-18), in Malibu, Calif.

Pepperdine (3-0, 3-0 MPSF) seemed to be its own worst enemy at the start of the night, hitting just .126 with 11 kills and six errors on 39 swings. But UC Irvine (5-2, 1-1 MPSF) would trail the majority of the match due to seven hitting errors and five service errors. After an Andy Hein kill gave the Waves a 22-20 lead, the Anteaters would rattle off the next six points to take an insurmountable 26-22 lead. UCI's Paul Spittle recorded three kills in UCI's last four points as the Anteaters went on to a 30-26 victory in game one.

Game two saw UCI gain the early edge building up a comfortable five-point lead, 16-11, but the Anteaters had four consecutive errors followed by a Paul Carroll kill as the Waves evened the game at 16-all. The Anteaters would regain a three-point edge, 21-18, before a 3-0 Pepperdine run capped by a Carroll ace locked things up at 21-21.

An UCI kill and ace kept Irvine in the lead until consecutive UCI errors and another Carroll kill put Pepperdine ahead, 24-23. The teams would trade points to 29-all with Irvine fighting off the Wave's first game-point try, but the home team would even the match at 1-1 on an Anteater attacking error.

Irvine would again grab the early lead in game three only to see the scored dead-locked at 19-19. A John Parfitt kill sent the Waves on a 4-0 run on four consecutive kills by four different players. UCI narrowed the gap to one, 28-27, on two Matt Webber kills, but Pepperdine closed out the game with a John Parfitt kill and a solo block by Jonathan Winder to give the Waves the 30-27 set.

After holding a 5-3 lead in game four, Irvine saw Pepperdine embark on a 13-2 run and never look back as they took the game 30-18 and the match.

Carroll's 19 kills led the way for Pepperdine, while Parfitt chipped in with 17 and Grobe added 14. The Waves out-blocked Irvine by an 18.5-5.0 margin with Tom Hulse accounting for 10, while Carroll finished the night with 7 and Grobe and Winder added five.

Irvine was paced by Webber's 20 kills on .228 hitting. Jayson Jablonksy had 14 and Aaron Harrell recorded 11.

**January 18, 2006**

### **UC IRVINE SWEEPS USC TO REMAIN UNBEATEN IN MPSF PLAY**

Los Angeles, Calif. – Jayson Jablonsky had 13 kills and nine digs to lead the No. 4 UC Irvine men's volleyball team to a 30-26, 30-23, 30-27 win over No. 13 USC in a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match on Wednesday (Jan. 18) in USC's North Gym.

UC Irvine improved to 5-1 overall and remained unbeaten in MPSF play at 2-0. USC had its 2-match winning streak snapped as it fell to 3-3 overall and 2-1 in the MPSF.

Jablonsky hit .348 and added 2 aces. His teammates, Paul Spittle and Matt Webber, each had eight kills. Aaron Harrell of UCI had a match-best 8 blocks, while Webber added 7 blocks as the Anteaters outblocked the Trojans, 13 to 6.5.

For USC, Juan Figueroa had a match-high 18 kills, while Joao Grangeiro had 10 kills and 9 digs.

In the first game, UC Irvine pulled away from a 23-23 tie on a Trojan serving error and then a kill by Harrell. The Anteaters were in control throughout the second game as they hit .393. UCI overcame a 13-7 deficit in the third game to take a 22-20 lead, but USC fought back to go up 26-23 before the Anteaters tied it at 26-26. UC Irvine then closed out the match with 3 straight points on a kill by David Smith, followed by a USC ballhandling error and a Trojan hitting error.

**January 13, 2006**

### **NO. 9 UC IRVINE STUNS No. 2 UCLA WITH SWEEP**

IRVINE, Calif. --- Junior outside hitter Matt Webber pounded a season-high 23 kills and totaled six digs to lead ninth-ranked UC Irvine to a 32-30, 30-28, 30-24 upset over second-ranked UCLA in a Mountain Pacific Sports Federation match Friday at Crawford Court. The win snapped a six-match losing streak against the Bruins as UCI improved to 4-1 overall (1-0) in front of a sellout crowd of 865.

UCI outside hitter Jason Jablonsky added 12 kills while senior outside hitter Paul Spittle put in an errorless effort, connecting on 11 of 24 attempts to hit .458 against the Bruins. Junior middle

blocker David Smith led the defensive effort with a match-high six block assists while setter Brian Thornton added five block assists and dealt out 51 assists. Freshman libero Brett Asuka led the team with seven digs and Webber and Spittle added six digs apiece.

UCLA was led by outside hitter Paul George, who had 14 kills. Outside hitter Damien Scott and Sean O'Malley added 11 and 10 kills, respectively while libero Tony Ker totaled 11 digs to lead all players. Setter Dennis Gonzalez recorded 42 assists as the Bruins dropped to 2-2 overall and 0-1 in league play.

UCI took a 6-2 lead in game one a Webber service ace followed by back-to-back kills from Webber and Smith. UCLA answered, scoring the next five points highlighted by three straight kills from George to tie the match 7-7. A pair of UCI errors gave UCLA its first lead of the match at 9-7 but UCI would tie the game (9-9) on a Smith put-away and an error by George. The two teams traded points until UC Irvine managed to create a three-point cushion (27-24) on a setting error by Scott. Consecutive attack errors by UCI put the Bruins back in the game and a kill by O'Malley would give UCLA the 30-29 lead. Webber answered with a shot down the line and then teamed up with Smith to deny O'Malley at the net to give UCI game point. UCI came away with the 32-30 win on Scott's attack error.

UCLA built a four-point margin in game two (12-8), capitalizing on UCI attack errors and the Bruins would hold the lead for much of the game. At 23-20, Jablonsky's kill was followed by two UCLA errors, tying the game at 23 points apiece. UCI eventually took its first lead of the game at 28-27 as Smith and Thornton blocked an O'Malley attempt. However, UCLA turned to freshman Jamie Diefenbach, whose kill knotted the game again at 28-28. Diefenbach then committed a blocking error (29-28) and Smith and Jablonsky sealed the 30-28 win, closing the block on a George attack attempt.

In game three, George put away the first three attempts to give UCLA a 3-0 lead but UCI would rattle off four straight points to lead 10-8. A second four-point rally by the Anteaters, highlighted by a Jablonsky kill and service ace on consecutive plays saw UCI extend its lead to 14-10. UCI built its largest margin at 10 points (25-15) on a pair of UCLA errors and a UCI kill but the Bruins managed to close the gap as the Anteaters committed three consecutive attack errors. UCLA closed the gap to five points (26-21) on an Aaron Harrell attack error but would get no closer. Jablonsky connected with Thornton for the 30-24 win.

UC Irvine continues MPSF action January 18 at USC and will host its annual Alumni Game Saturday (Jan.14) at 7:00 p.m. at Crawford Court.

### **January 7, 2006**

#### **UC IRVINE UPENDS USC FOR FIFTH PLACE AT ELEPHANT BAR TOURNAMENT**

Santa Barbara, Calif. -- The UC Irvine men's volleyball team upended USC 3-0 (30-23, 30-27, 30-28) in the fifth place match at the Elephant Bar Tournament hosted by UC Santa Barbara.

Junior Jayson Jablonsky recorded a double-double with 20 kills and 10 digs to lead UCI. Matt Webber followed with 13 kills. Senior Paul Spittle added nine kills.

The Anteaters are now 3-1 on the season and will host UCLA Friday at 7:00 p.m. at Crawford Court.

### **January 6, 2006**

## **UCI SPLITS A PAIR OF MATCHES ON FIRST DAY OF EBAR TOURNAMENT**

Santa Barbara, Calif. -- UC Irvine split a pair of matches at the Elephant Bar Tournament hosted by UC Santa Barbara Friday.

The Anteaters opened with a 3-2 (30-24,30-27,27-30,28-30,15-10) loss to UC Santa Barbara in the first match then swept Stanford, 3-0 (30-21, 30-12, 30-20) in the nightcap.

Versus the Gauchos, junior Matt Webber recorded 22 kills for the second consecutive match. Webber also recorded five digs and three blocks. Jayson Jablonsky tallied 13 kills and middle blocker David Smith had 10 kills in the loss. Setter Brian Thornton totaled 48 assists and a team-high nine digs.

The Anteaters hit .514 as team against Stanford. Middle blockers David Smith hit .727, while Aaron Harrell hit .700 for the match. Matt Webber led the Anteaters with 10 kills.

UCI will battle USC, who upset Pacific, at 1:30 p.m. Saturday for fifth place.

**January 3, 2006**

## **UC IRVINE DEFEATS CAL BAPTIST**

IRVINE, Calif. --- UC Irvine outside hitters Jayson Jablonsky and Matt Webber topped all players with 22 kills apiece, leading UCI past Cal Baptist 30-28, 23-30, 30-27, 24-30, 15-12 Tuesday in a non-conference match at Crawford Court. With the win, UCI opens the season at 1-0 while Cal Baptist falls to 0-1.

UCI middle blocker Aaron Harrell connected on 13 of 16 attempts with just one error to record a match-high .750 hitting percentage. Setter Brian Thornton totaled 70 assists while libero Brent Asuka led all players with nine digs. Webber led the team with seven block assists while middle blocker David Smith and Harrell each totaled four block assists.

Cal Baptist was led by opposite Shamsu Awudu, who put away 21 kills and totaled seven blocks on six block assists and solo block. Outside hitters Corey Spence and Seidu Ajanako added 17 and 15 kills, respectively, and Ajanako totaled a team-high eight digs. Setter Eric Plunkett handed out 51 assists while middle blockers Romain Vetter and Urs Gunthor led the Lancers to a 17 – 10.5 block advantage with seven block assists apiece.

UCI competes in the Elephant Bar Tournament, hosted by UC Santa Barbara, this Friday and Saturday (Jan. 6-7).

**December 31, 2005**

## **UC IRVINE SWEEPS WINNIPEG IN EXHIBITION VOLLEYBALL**

Irvine, Calif. – Junior Jayson Jablonsky totaled 15 kills to lead UC Irvine to a 3-0 (30-26, 30-20, 30-19) victory over the University of Winnipeg in an exhibition match Saturday at Crawford Court.

The Anteaters hit .533 for the match, recording 48 kills in 75 attempts with just eight errors. UCI hit .789 in game two (16-1-19).

Junior Matt Webber recorded 11 kills and hit .688 (11-0-16), while Aaron Harrell hit .769 (10-0-13) and David Smith hit .692 (10-1-13). Harrell led the team with four blocks and two service aces. Setter Brian Thornton tallied 37 set assists and two solo blocks. UCI dominated the net, out-blocking Winnipeg 8.5-3.0.

Ben Schellenberg was the only Winnipeg player in double-digit kills with 12. He also led the squad with five digs.

UC Irvine will open the regular season hosting Cal Baptist Tuesday (Jan.3) at 7:00 p.m. in Crawford Court.

## **December 30, 2005**

### **THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SWEEPS UCI IN EXHIBITION MATCH**

Irvine, Calif. – The University of Alberta men's volleyball team defeated UC Irvine, 3-0 (30-25, 30-25, 30-24) in an exhibition match Friday at Crawford Court.

The Golden Bears were led by Nicholas Cundy with 13 kills and four digs and Dallas Soonias who totaled 11 kills. Setter Brock Davidiuk recorded 43 assists. Leo Carroll hit .818 (9-0-11) and led the team with five blocks.

UCI was paced by Matt Webber who was the only Anteater in double-digit kills with 13. Jayson Jablonsky and Aaron Harrell each added seven kills in the loss. Harrell also had a team-high three blocks.

The Anteaters hit just .183 for the match, while Alberta hit .344, including going .500 (20-3-34) in the first game.

UCI will take on the University of Winnipeg Saturday (Dec.31) at 3:00 p.m. in another exhibition match at Crawford Court